CANADA

CHURCH ESTABLISHMENT

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COPY OF

A LETTER addressed to *R. J. Wilmot Horton*, Esq. by the Rev. Dr. STRACHAN, Archdeacon of *York, Upper Canada*, dated 16th May 1827; respecting the State of the Church in that Province.

Colonial Department,
Downing Street, 22 May 1827.

R. J. WILMOT HORTON.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 22 *May* 1827.

19, Bury-street, St. James's, 16th May 1827.

SIR,

I TAKE the liberty of enclosing for the information of Lord Goderich, an Ecclesiastical Chart of the Province of *Upper Canada*, which I believe to be correct, for the present year 1827, and from which it appears that the Church of England has made considerable progress, and is rapidly increasing.

The people are coming forward in all directions, offering to assist in building churches, and soliciting with the greatest anxiety the establishment of a settled minister; indeed the prospect of obtaining a respectable clergyman unites neighbourhoods together, and when one is sent of a mild conciliatory disposition, he is sure, in any settlement in which he may be placed, to form the respectable part of the inhabitants into an increasing congregation. There are in the province 150 townships, containing from 40 to 500 families, in each of which a clergyman may be most usefully employed; and double this number will be required in less than twelve years.

When contrasted with other denominations, the Church of England needs not to be ashamed of the progress she has made. Till 1818 there was only one clergyman in Upper Canada, a member of the Church of Scotland. This gentleman brought up his two sons in the Church of England, of which they are now parish priests. After his death his congregation was split into three divisions, which with another collected at Kingston in 1822, count four congregations in all, which are in communion with the Kirk of Scotland. Two are at present vacant, and of the two Scotch clergymen now in the province, one has applied for holy orders in the Church of England.

The teachers of the different denominations, with the exception of the two ministers of the Church of Scotland, four congregationalists, and a respectable English missionary who presides, of a Wesleyan Methodist Meeting at Kingston, are for the most part from the United States, where they gather

their knowledge and form their sentiments; indeed the Methodist teachers are subject to the orders of the Conference of the United States of America, and it is manifest that the Colonial Government neither has nor can have any other control over them, or prevent them from gradually rendering a large portion of the population, by their influence and instruction, hostile to our institutions, both civil and religious, than by increasing the number of the established Clergy. Two assertions have been made respecting the Church of England in Upper Canada, which, if correct, ought certainly to have considerable influence. First, that her Clergymen have no congregations. Now I affirm from personal knowledge, that in the 58 places where regular or occasional service is performed, numerous and respectable congregations assemble. The second assertion is, that in the House of Assembly, consisting of 44 members, only two belong to the Church of England. Now the fact is, that 18 out of the 44 profess to be of the Church of England, for the truth of which I pledge myself, and can, if necessary, furnish the names; the remaining 26 are of various denominations, but certainly not more than three or four Scotch Presbyterians.

The Church of England in Canada, was supported for many years out of the very limited and fluctuating revenue of the venerable Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, which did its utmost to increase the number of the clergy, but its means were so inadequate to the demand, that it was at length obliged to solicit the aid of government to continue and extend its efforts, accordingly a small sum, in aid of its funds, has been for some years voted by the Imperial Parliament, of which Upper Canada receives a portion. How inefficient this aid is to supply the increasing necessities of the colony has been sufficiently shown, for the tendency of the population is towards the Church of England, and nothing but the want of moderate support prevents her from spreading over the whole province.

But it may be asked, why do not the Clergy Reserves afford a remedy?

To make the answer to this question intelligible, a few remarks are necessary.

By the 31st of George the 3d, c. 31. one-seventh of the land in Upper Canada is reserved for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy; the operation of which provision offers at this time the following results:—The number of townships actually surveyed may be taken at 240, averaging 66,000 acres, one-seventh of which, 9,428, equal 47 reserved lots of 200 acres each, consequently the number of such lots, in 240 townships, is about 11,000, containing $2\frac{1}{5}$ million of acres.

But as these lands partake of the quality of those around them, many lots will be found, from various causes, unfit for cultivation, so that the number eligible for settlement cannot be taken at more than 9,000, containing 1,800,000.

That this provision will at no time be ample for the support of a religious establishment sufficient for the population of Upper Canada when fully settled, will sufficiently appear from the fact, that the whole surface of the colony does not exceed 31 millions of acres, of which not more than 26 are capable of cultivation; one-seventh of this, containing 3,760,000 acres, or 18,800 reserved lots of 200 acres each, will ultimately constitute the whole property set apart for the maintenance of a Protestant clergy. Now, judging from what takes place in the United States, each lot will not produce in a century an average rent of £. 20. per annum, making a total of no more than £. 376,000. which, divided among two thousand clergymen (a very small number for a country nearly as large as England) gives only £. 188. to each.

Hitherto

Hitherto the reserved lands have been inefficient from causes now very obvious, though not perhaps anticipated by the distinguished statesman who advised the appropriation.

These causes are—

1.—The great encouragement given by government to settlers of good character, by bestowing on them land on payment of a trifling fee.

2.—The gratuitous grants of land made to such persons as retained their loyalty during the American revolutionary war, and to officers, soldiers and sailors who served in the late war in Europe and America.

3.—The preference given by the colonists to lands in fee-simple to leases, even where the latter are more advantageous.

4.—The difficulty of collecting rents, from the smallness of the amount charged in each lot, and from being scattered over the whole province.

5.—So long as applicants can get lands of the best quality and in the most convenient situations for nothing, or a mere trifle, the natural consequence is, that rent of lands upon lease is almost nominal.

In regard to the gross rental of the leased lots, it amounts to about £. 1,200. per annum, and was for a long time swallowed up by the expense of making out the leases necessary to convey the title to the applicant; and though this item of expense has been removed, it is still reduced by the and per centage of the sheriffs, who are employed to collect it, from persons scattered over a surface of nearly 40,000 square miles, so that the net sum actually paid over to the treasurer does not much exceed £. 400. per annum.

These things pressing forcibly on the minds of the Lord Bishop of Quebec and his Clergy, and on the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada and his Council, induced them to seek the power of selling the Clergy Reserves to a limited extent, as well as leasing them, leaving the proceeds to be disposed of as provided for in the 31 Geo. 3. c. 31. and this is the object of the Bill before Parliament.

From this measure they look for many important advantages:—

1.—A large portion of the country, now in a manner locked up, would be made free.

2.—The lessees would be more punctual in paying their rents, for fear of losing any claim to renewal or advantageous purchase.

3.—The means would be afforded of multiplying clergymen to any number that might be required.

4.—The popular objection against the reserves, as a barrier to improvement and internal communication, would in a great degree be removed.

5.—The Imperial Parliament would in a few years be relieved from the annual grant, in aid of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, in as far as respects Upper Canada.

6.—Two or three hundred clergymen living in Upper Canada, in the midst of their congregations, and receiving the greater portion of their income from funds deposited in this country, must attach still more intimately the population of the colony to the parent state. Their influence would gradually spread. They would infuse into the inhabitants a tone and feeling entirely English; and acquiring by degrees the direction of education which the Clergy of England have always possessed, the very first feelings, sentiments and opinions of the youth must become British.

I have, &c.

(signed) *John Strachan.*

ECCLESIASTICAL CHART for the Province of UPPER CANADA; For 1827.

I.—THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.

DISTRICTS.	CLERGYMEN.	TOWNSHIPS.	CHURCHES Built or Building.	SERVICE.
Eastern District	Rev. S. J. Mountain	Cornwall - -	neat Church -	Regular.
	Rev. J. G. Weagart	Williamsburgh -	small Church -	Regular.
		Osnaburgh - -	small Church -	Regular.
		Matilda - -	- - - -	occasional.
Johnston District	Rev. F. Myers -	Edwardsburgh -	small Church -	Regular.
	Rev. Mr. Blakey -	Prescott - -	neat Church -	Regular.
	Rev. John Wenham	Brockville - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Rev. Mr. Elms -	Bastard - -	small Church -	Regular.
		Younge - -	- - - -	occasional.
Bathurst District	Rev. Mr. Harris -	Perth - - -	Church building	Regular.
		Lanark - - -	- - - -	occasional
	Rev. Mr. Burns -	Richmond - -	Church building	Regular.
Midland District	Archdeacon Stuart	Kingston - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Chaplain to the Navy	Navy Point - -	Church building	Regular.
		Waterloo - -	- - - -	occasional.
	Rev. J. Stoughton	Bath - - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Napane Mills -	- - - -	occasional.
		Fredericksburgh -	Church building	occasional.
	Rev. Job Deacon -	Adolphus Town -	Church - -	Regular.
		Hollowell - -	Church building	occasional.
	Rev. Thos. Campbell	Belville - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Rev. Mr. Grier -	Head of the Bay -	Church - -	Regular.
		Indian Village -	Church - -	occasional.
Newcastle District.	Rev. Wm. Macauley	Haldemand - -	- - - -	occasional.
	Rev. Mr. Armour -	Cobourgh - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Peterborough -	- - - -	Regular.
		Porthope - -	Church - -	occasional.
	Rev. J. Thompson	Cavan - - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Whitby - -	- - - -	occasional.
Home District	Archdeacon Strachan	York - - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Dr. Phillips - -	Younge Street -	Church - -	occasional.
		Purdys Mills -	Church building	occasional.
	Dr. Tunny - -	Newmarket - -	Church building	occasional.
	Clergyman a Lutheran, now under consideration - -	Markham - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Etobicoke - -	Church built -	occasional.
		Toranto - -	Church building	occasional.
Gore District	Rev. R. Leeming -	Ancaster - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Burton - - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Dundass - -	- - - -	occasional.
		Woolwich - -	Church - -	occasional.
		Indian Village -	Church - -	occasional.
Niagara District	Alexander Bethune	Grimsby - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Robert Addison -	Niagara - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Rev. Mr. Creen -	Queenston - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Rev. Mr. Leeds -	St. Catherine -	Church - -	occasional.
	Wm. Leeming -	Cheppawa - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Short Hills - -	- - - -	occasional.
		Fort Erie - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Long Point - -	Church building	occasional.
London District	Mr. Moreley -	Indian Village -	- - - -	occasional.
	Rev. Mr. M'Intosh	Kettle Creek -	Church - -	Regular.
		Port Talbot - -	- - - -	occasional.
		London - -	Church building	occasional.
		River Thames -	- - - -	occasional.
Western District	Rev. Mr. Short -	Sandwich - -	Church - -	Regular.
		Chatham - -	Church - -	Regular.
	Mr. Rolph - -	Amherstburgh -	Church - -	Regular
		New Settlement -	Church - -	occasional.
Total - -	30 Clergymen, and one Lutheran under consideration.	58 places where there is regular or occasional service, exclusive of frequent journies taken by the Missionaries to the New Settlements in their neighbourhood.	45 Churches—10 of them building, and others commencing at most of the places where occasional service is performed.	31 Regular Parishes—27 Service occasionally.

The Ecclesiastical Chart—*continued.*

II.—MINISTERS OF THE INDEPENDENT OR PRESBYTERIAN ORD ER.

And assuming the Appellation of the Presbytery of the Canadas, but having no Connection with the Kirk of Scotland.

PLACES OF RESIDENCE.	CLERGYMEN.	
Osnaburgh—Eastern District -	The Rev. J. Johnston -	Educated principally at Glasgow, ordained in Ireland by the Synod of Ulster, preaches at Cornwall and Osnaburgh, Eastern District.
Brockville—Johnston District	The Rev. Wm. Smart -	Sent out to this country as a Missionary by some Society in London, settled at Brockville, Johnston District, said to be an excellent young man.
Perth—Bathurst District -	The Rev. Wm. Bell -	Educated in Scotland, ordained among the Dissenters from the Established Kirk, settled at Perth, in Bathurst District.
Bay of Quinty—Midland District	The Rev. Rt. M'Duall	Ordained in the United States, settled in the Bay of Quinty, Midland District, has resided in the Province many years.
York—Home District - -	The Rev. James Harris	Educated principally at Glasgow, admitted a Licentiate by the Synod of Ulster.
Markham—Home District -	The Rev. Wm. Jenkins	Ordained in the United States for the purpose of residing among the Indians, came lately into the Province and settled in Markham.

III.—MINISTERS IN COMMUNION WITH THE KIRK OF SCOTLAND.

PLACES OF RESIDENCE.	CLERGYMEN.	
Williamstown—Eastern District	The Rev. John M'Kensie	Has been about eight years in the Province, and is settled at Williamstown as Minister of a part of the late Rev. John Bethune's congregation.
District -	The Rev. John M'Laurie	Has been about seven years in the Province and is situated at Lochiel, is Minister of another part of the late Rev. J. Bethune's congregation.
Cornwall—Eastern District -	Vacant.	
Kingston—Midland District -	Vacant.	

AS the METHODISTS have no settled Clergyman, it has been found difficult to ascertain the number of Itinerants employed, but it is presumed to be considerable, perhaps from twenty to thirty in the whole Province; one from England, settled at Kingston, appears to be a very superior person. The other denominations have very few teachers, and those seemingly very ignorant; one of the two remaining Clergymen in communion with the Church of Scotland has applied to be admitted into the Established Church.

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